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Papers Called Embarrassing to U.S.

Scientists Cite Government Illegalities, Corruption

By Ron Shaffer

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A Church of Scientology spokesman charged in a press conference yesterday that the federal government has seized church documents because they contain "information on government illegalities and corruption."

Some of the church's files included information "that would embarrass the government at least and could lead to prosecution of dishonest government officials," according to the spokesman, Arthur J. Maren.

The press conference, at the Founding Church of Scientology, 2125 S St. NW, follows several articles in The Washington Post that stated, according to informed sources and government documents filed in court, that the church has been embarked on an extensive campaign to silence its critics.

This campaign, according to these sources, has included burglaries and break-ins, illegal wiretapping and harassment of government agencies, private businesses and selected individuals.

Maren said the church files in fact included information that reveal "IRS sexual entrapment techniques; ties between Nixon and drug companies as well as surveillance of celebrities by government agencies; CIA-DEA collaborations; and former CIA officials working for the DEA." The DEA refers to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Maren charged that among the files seized were those of the Church's news journal, "Freedom," and that this "deals directly with the citizen's right to

freedom of the press." He said the files contained information from confidential sources.

Maren characterized the government's execution of a search warrant last July 8 as a "raid" conducted with "battering rams, buzz saws and crowbars" and that "they broke apart filing cabinets, knocked down doors and ransacked offices" at church buildings here and in Los Angeles.

Sources connected with the raid have said that FBI agents knocked on church doors for five minutes, and although people inside answered, no one would unlock the doors.

A government affidavit filed with the search warrant included allegations that the church had violated laws dealing with theft of government property and obstruction of justice. Some of the documents currently are being submitted to a grand jury.

Maren said a government inventory of seized church documents, filed in a Los Angeles court last week, was "erroneous" in that it "left out the true descriptions of the documents in order to keep their crimes from being disclosed."

Maren said that the inventory summary referred to "Op Chaos Leak," but in fact the document revealed "horrendous government crimes," including "a DEA assassination plot." An inventory reference to a "compliance report," was actually a document about "the planting of false evidence to entrap innocent citizens," Maren said.

The church released few details on these charges, but promised to reveal next week "documentation exposing a massive governmental cover-up."